

# *Congratulations to the 2005 Pollution Prevention Award Recipients*

Cobalt Boats

Columbian Chemicals Company

Edwards County Conservation District

Excel Industries, Inc.

Newton Medical Center

Philips Lighting

Sedgwick County Courthouse

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation



## ***Cobalt Boats***

Cobalt Boats, a manufacturer of leading world-class day boats, is awarded for their efforts in pollution prevention.

Pollution prevention (P2) has developed into more of a culture for Cobalt Boats than a project. Cobalt has taken an aggressive approach to P2 by adopting new technologies, processes, and by testing and using environmentally friendly products to build high quality boats. The company's environmental success began in 1998 with a recycling project for used acetone. Since then the company has researched, tested, and incorporated low volatile organic compounds (VOC) and hazardous air pollutants (HAP) resins into their processes, totally eliminated HAP content in upholstery adhesives, optimized cutting of fiberglass mat for parts, and expanded the acetone recycling project.

Today, Cobalt continues the dedication to the P2 philosophy and is exploring the "closed molding technology" to produce parts. The closed molding process virtually eliminates VOC and HAP emissions, clean-up solvents, and will eliminate employee health hazards associated with these types of materials – truly eliminating pollution at the source.



*KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby and Greg Ternes, Cobalt Boats*

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## *Columbian Chemicals Company*

Columbian Chemicals Company is awarded for its efforts on implementing an Environmental Management System (EMS).

Columbian Chemicals Company (CCC) produces carbon black, which is a fine powder used as a pigment and as a reinforcing agent in rubber. The company is headquartered in Atlanta, GA and has 11 plants worldwide. This award is for the Hickok plant, which is located east of Ulysses, Kansas.

In 2001, CCC corporate initiated the hand off of environmental management to the local facilities. An EMS seemed to be the logical vehicle to provide the infrastructure needed to get CCC-Hickok's environmental affairs in order. The EMS has evolved over the past three to four years and CCC-Hickok achieved ISO 14001:2004 registration in June 2005.

Through this EMS process, the company has been successful going beyond compliance to achieve measurable emissions and waste reduction goals. Some of the environmental benefits include:

- ❑ A reduction in HAPS of 156 tons, despite a 4% increase in production;
- ❑ A 61% reduction in hazardous waste generation;
- ❑ A 77% reduction in Hoppercar fuel grade (scrap) generation; and
- ❑ 81 projects resulting in about \$1.175 million savings.



*(l to r) Mark McGaughey, Columbian Chemical Co.; KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby; Debra McDaniel, Columbian Chemical Co.*

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## *Edwards County Conservation District*

The Edwards County Conservation District is awarded for its efforts in recycling.

In 2001, Edwards County and the City of Kinsley, citing manpower and cost restraints, turned over the recycling program to a citizen volunteer. In order to assist with the program, the Edwards County Conservation District applied for and received grant funds from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment to purchase a truck, trailer, and forklift.

After two years, it became evident that the volunteer citizen could not keep up with the amount of recyclables being collected. In 2003, the conservation district purchased the recycling building and took over the program. Improvements were made to the building to facilitate drop off of recyclables by the public. The program's goal was to divert at least 20 tons of material a month. As of May 2005, the program is averaging 50 tons per month.

The recycling program is further enhanced by the involvement and financial assistance of the Edwards County Commissioners, who purchased building modifications to facilitate shipping of the materials.

While the conservation district owns the equipment and building for the program, the day to day operations of the facility are managed by Richard and Stacy Neilson and their son Brent and daughter Megan.



*(l to r) Megan Neilson, Duane Mathes, Stacy Neilson, KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby, Richard Neilson, Brent Neilson*

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## *Excel Industries, Inc.*

Excel Industries, Inc., a leading turf equipment manufacturing company, is awarded for its efforts in pollution prevention.

One of Excel's philosophies is "dedication to research and development means that you accomplish more work, with fewer people, in less time." In a recent plant expansion, they took that philosophy and applied it to the company's environmental stewardship. Through research and development, they were able to reduce pollution, reduce waste, and in turn create a better product.

The company installed a state-of-the-art powder-coat paint system, which reduces air emissions and solid waste. The process electrically charges the powder paint, "sprays" metal parts, then heats and essentially bakes the powder to the part. This process eliminates liquid paints and solvents that contain volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants.

In addition to the powder coating, the company installed a new wastewater treatment facility. The new facility uses neutralization, flocculation, clarification, and sludge thickening prior to discharge. This decreases the amount of particles and metals discharged to the sanitary sewer.

By implementing these pollution prevention projects, the company was able to reduce its regulatory burden. The air permit status of the facility was lowered from a Class II permit to a Class B permit and its hazardous waste generator status decreased from an EPA Generator to a Kansas Generator.



*KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby and Bob Mullet, Excel Industries*

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## *Newton Medical Center*

Newton Medical Center is awarded for its efforts in pollution prevention.

In August 1999, Newton Medical Center had a mercury spill in the corridor outside of the surgery suites. The event temporarily closed the surgery suites, absorbed countless hours of staff time and resulted in a cleanup, disposal, and equipment replacement price tag of \$41,500. This event was the beginning of its effort to eliminate mercury in its environment.

The center's active Safety Committee did not stop at mercury reduction. The center began proactively looking at other ways to reduce hazardous materials in the hospital and in its waste stream as well as opportunities to conserve natural resources.

As a result of implementing the pollution prevention plan, the center now has a safer environment for its patients and staff. The Newton area has also benefited from its reduction in pollution to the air, water, and land. Some of the environmental benefits include:

- ❑ Elimination of all patient care mercury containing devices (nearly 1000 pounds)
- ❑ 70% reduction in laboratory chemicals
- ❑ Switch to greener chemicals
- ❑ Elimination of disposal of sharps containers by using reusable sharps containers.



*KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby and Lois Balthrop, Newton Medical Center*

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## *Philips Lighting*

Philips Lighting is awarded for its efforts in technology innovation.

Philips Lighting Company recently produced its one billionth ALTO® lamp at the world's largest fluorescent facility, located in Salina, Kansas. Philips pioneered a new category of low-mercury fluorescent lamps with the introduction of ALTO technology in 1995, and has since earned a reputation for significantly heightening corporate environmental awareness and helping companies implement sustainable lighting practices.

Philips set the industry standard with the creation of this low-mercury product category, resulting in other manufacturers reducing the mercury content in their products, and users requesting more environmentally-responsible lighting options. To date, the use of ALTO lamps by commercial, industrial, and retail users has prevented nearly 9 tons of mercury from entering the environment.

Philips continues to lead the industry in source reduction with low-mercury lighting products and offers several programs to help end users understand sustainability. Its most recent seminar series, Innovations Roadshow, brought information about the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program to architects, lighting designers and others interested in creating sustainable and energy-efficient buildings in the United States.



*(l to r) Scott Sherraden, Philips Lighting; KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby; Joan Caldwell, Philips Lighting*

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## *Sedgwick County Courthouse*

The Sedgwick County Courthouse is awarded for its efforts in energy efficiency.

The Sedgwick County Courthouse, a 12-story building constructed in 1959, had been cooled using 20 year-old cooling units and heated with three inefficient gas boilers. The Courthouse was experiencing high energy costs and mounting repair bills from aging HVAC equipment that had outlived its useful life. Maintenance staff was having a difficult time keeping up with the high equipment failure rate and supporting the needs for flexible heating and cooling periods.

The County chose an aggressive energy savings approach for replacing the equipment. The vendor was tasked to design, develop, purchase, install, and help to maintain and operate any new equipment that was installed during the project. Payments to the vendor were contractually guaranteed to be less than the savings incurred from the reduction in energy use.

Some of the equipment used includes energy saving T-8 bulbs and electronic ballasts, a central chilled water system, a flat plate heat exchanger, smaller energy efficient hot water boilers, and a fully functional facility automation system. Energy efficiency modifications include reducing the electricity usage by over 2,129,059 kwh per year and natural gas usage by over 1,526 MCF's per year. The boiler replacement provided for a 51% reduction in natural gas use while the chiller system is responsible for a 69% reduction in electricity use. Lighting and scheduling of HVAC equipment made up for the balance of the energy savings for a total of 57.5% reduction in energy consumed.



*Steve Claassen, Sedgwick County and KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby*

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## *Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation*

Wolf Creek Nuclear Operating Corporation (WCNOC) is awarded for its efforts in pollution prevention.

WCNOC created a waste minimization plan to help Wolf Creek Generating Station (WCGS) achieve a reduction in both the volume and toxicity of waste generated. This goal was accomplished by using techniques such as product substitution, efficient use of chemicals, improved chemical control, improved work processes, reuse and recycling. One of the primary goals of the plan was to allow the generating station to drop from an EPA Generator classification to a Kansas Generator classification, thus reducing its hazardous waste regulatory burden. This goal was accomplished in October 2004.

To meet this goal, the company set out to determine how and why the two largest waste streams at WCGS were hazardous wastes. The Environmental Management staff focused on paints and paint-related material as a target waste stream for minimization. This effort resulted in the development of a Waste Paint Management procedure for evaluating paint on-site prior to disposal. Usage of this guidance made significant changes in the operation of hazardous waste paint and paint-related materials.

In addition to reducing hazardous wastes, the company has also implemented non-hazardous waste minimization programs such as recycling office paper, corrugated cardboard, laser printer toner cartridges, used oil, aluminum cans, antifreeze, and much more.



*(l to r) Kevin Moles, Wolf Creek; Bob Hammond, Wolf Creek; KDHE Secretary Roderick Bremby; Don Eccles, Wolf Creek; Matt Sunseri, Wolf Creek*

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